



State of Utah

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Department of Human Services

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Executive Director

Division of Child and Family Services

DUANE E. BETOURNAY
Director

August 18, 2008

Chris Chytraus, R.N., BSN, CPM
Quality Improvement Committee
645 East 4500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84104

Committee Members,

We received your letter of July 18, 2008 regarding the lack of mental health and substance abuse treatment availability in Tooele. Mr. Kenneth Brown, LPC, our new Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment Program Administrator was assigned to look into this matter. He first met with DCFS staff to get a better idea of what barriers to treatment they may be facing. He also had a meeting with Doug Thomas, LCSW, Unit Manager for Tooele Valley Mental Health and Mary Wilder, LCSW, the new DCFS Program Administrator for Tooele.

Mr. Brown reports the meeting on August 12, was very productive. Mr. Thomas, while relatively new to this position, is working very diligently to meet community needs. He has increased programming in several areas and graciously volunteered to transport adolescent's in our care to services offered by Juvenile Justice that are only available in Salt Lake City. He is also willing to look at the fee schedule for services offered to our clients. Mary Wilder and Doug agreed on some referral protocols that should speed up the process and timelines under which our clients will be seen.

While Mary had begun some initial assessment and coordination with the local center, the QI committee expressing concerns facilitated more dialogue that is beneficial. Now that this coordination and communication has been opened up at the local level between these two agencies, many of the problems staff were facing can and will be addressed and hopefully resolved to better meet our clients and the community's needs. Mary has also asked that Royce Webb, LCSW and a member of her team, attend the monthly interagency team meetings to ensure open lines of communication between all our community partners in the area.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention so that we may always strive to better meet the needs of the children and families we work with. Please feel free to contact me or I will be happy to send Mr. Brown to attend one of your meetings if you require further information.

Sincerely,

Duane Betournay, Director
Division of Child and Family Services